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## **CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CalWORKs) PROGRAM**

### **HOMELESS ASSISTANCE (HA) PROGRAM FACT SHEET**

The CalWORKs HA Program provides Temporary HA and Permanent HA. Temporary HA provides temporary shelter payments to homeless families while they are looking for permanent housing. Permanent HA helps homeless families secure a permanent residence **or** provides up to two months back rent when the family has received a pay rent or quit notice.

Families can apply for Temporary and/or Permanent HA at any CalWORKs office.

A family is considered homeless when:

- It lacks a fixed and regular nighttime residence; or
- It has a primary nighttime residence that is a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations; or
- It is residing in a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings; or
- It has a need for housing in a commercial establishment (e.g., hotel/motel), shelter, publicly-funded transitional housing, or from a person in the business of renting properties who has a history of renting properties; or
- It receives a pay rent or quit notice.

#### **Temporary HA**

Temporary HA provides once-in-a-lifetime\* temporary shelter payments for up to 16 consecutive calendar days. An eligible family may receive \$65 per day (for a family of up to four) and \$15 per day for each additional person up to a maximum of \$125 per day. The family must be actively searching for permanent housing, provide verification for the housing search, and provide verification of shelter expenditures.

To be eligible for Temporary HA, the family must:

- Be apparently eligible to CalWORKs or be CalWORKs approved;
- Meet the definition of “homeless;”

- Not have more than \$100.00 in liquid resources (i.e., cash on hand [not to include the current month's grant], bank account, etc.); and
- Obtain temporary shelter from a commercial establishment (e.g., hotel or motel, paid emergency shelter) or from a person who has a history of renting rooms/properties.

### **Permanent HA**

Permanent HA provides a once-in-a-lifetime\* payment to cover security deposit costs including the last month's rent and any legal payment, fee, deposit or charge that is required by a landlord as a condition of assuming occupancy. An amount, in addition to the amount allowable for security deposits, is also available to cover utility deposits (turn-on-fees) required for gas, electricity and/or water. The Permanent HA payment amount for security deposits cannot exceed two times the total rent (rent amount before subsidies). Permanent HA cannot pay for the first month's rent or the costs of overdue utility bills.

To be eligible for the Permanent HA payment, the family must:

- Be CalWORKs approved;
- Meet the definition of "homeless;"
- Not have more than \$100.00 in liquid resources (i.e., cash on hand [not to include the current month's grant], bank account, etc.); and
- Secure permanent housing where the family's share of the rent does not exceed 80% of the family's Total Monthly Household Income (TMHI).

Permanent HA Arrearages provides a once-in-a-lifetime\* payment that can pay up to two months of back rent when the family receives a pay rent or quit notice resulting from a financial hardship due to circumstances beyond the family's control. Each month of the rent arrearage payment cannot exceed 80% of the family's TMHI.

To be eligible for the Permanent HA Arrearages payment, the family must:

- Be CalWORKs approved;
- Have a pay rent or quit notice;
- Provide proof that the eviction is a result of a financial hardship and not for other lease or rental violations;
- Not have more than \$100.00 in liquid resources (i.e., cash on hand [not to include the current month's grant], bank account, etc.); and
- Have permanent housing where the family's share of the rent does not exceed 80% of the family's TMHI.

An eligible family may receive Temporary HA shelter payments and/or the Permanent HA payment **or** the Permanent HA Arrearages payment. The family cannot receive both the Permanent HA payment and the Permanent HA Arrearages payment.

\*Temporary HA and Permanent HA payments are limited to a once-in-a-lifetime issuance unless the family meets an exception.

*Exceptions to the once-in-a-lifetime HA rule are limited to every 365 calendar days. However, this does not apply the first time a family receives HA under an exception.*